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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/823,588	04/14/2004	Martin Gagnon	01093-075	6242

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Ronald S. Kosie
BROUILLETTE KOSIE PRINCE
25th Floor
1100 Rene-Levesque Boulevard West
Montreal, QC H3B 519
CANADA

EXAMINER

FORD, JOHN K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3744

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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07/30/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

ED

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/823,588	Applicant(s) GAGNON ET AL.	
	Examiner John K. Ford	Art Unit 3744	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on May 3, 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 4/14/04 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>04/14/2004</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Applicant's election of the species of Figures 8-12 and 16 (3rd species) and the election of the damper species of Figure 14a, without traverse, is acknowledged here. Applicant has identified all of claims 1-33 as readable on the elected species.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The claims are replete with minor misspellings/grammar errors as well as numerous occasions where there is a lack of antecedent basis for particular terminology used. Examples of the former include claim 23, line 2, "sir" instead of - - air - - and claim 32, penultimate paragraph, which ends with a period rather than a comma. Examples of the latter include claims 13, 14 and 19-23, where there is no antecedent basis for first and second dampers in the claims from which these claims depend. Check the claim dependency carefully. It appears that at least claims 13, 14 and 19-23 have been intended to depend from claim 5 and not claim 4. The same may be true for claims 15 and 16. Go over the claims very carefully. One of the problems with having so many claims is that one has to take great care to write them properly. Please go

Art Unit: 3744

over all the claims carefully in response to this action and make the appropriate corrections.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 12-16, 18-23, 32 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combined teachings of Ukuchi (JP 08-068553) and Kurokawa (JP 07-042990).

Ukuchi shows a system with a forced indoor air treatment component 3, a second forced air treatment component 4, an output treated air duct element 15, a return duct element (13 and 16 together) and a secondary air path means (13 alone). Figure 1 shows operation of the system with the furnace 3 on and Figure 2 shows the operation of the system with the ventilator only. Ducts 11 and 14 in Ukuchi appear to be separately plumbed from the conditioned space.

To have connected ducts 11 and 14 of Ukuchi together at their upstream portions would have been obvious in view of the teaching shown with respect to duct 3a of Kurokawa, which shows a common return duct 3a from a conditioned space branched to form two ducts that connect, respectively, to a heat recovery system (6) and an air

Art Unit: 3744

conditioning system (1) in much the same manner as ducts 11 and 14 of Ukuchi connect to corresponding components. Such a modification would advantageously reduce the cost of ducting.


Claims 2, 5-11, 17 and 24-31 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and to overcome the 35 USC 112, second paragraph, rejection set forth above.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John K. Ford whose telephone number is 571-272-4911. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. 9-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cheryl Tyler can be reached on 571-272-4834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3744

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



John K. Ford
Primary Examiner